

REMINISCENCES

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Quantita Costello of off Bay Rd. provided the following story to the Clipper, taken from the May, 1967 issue of a publication about indoor badminton entitled Bird Chatter. A number of former Duxbury residents are mentioned in this article, and others mentioned, like the Costellos, still live in Duxbury or the area.

The Costellos of Duxbury

By STAN HALES National Junior Chairman

The year 1946 found Jack Brewer, badminton professional at Boston's University Club, actively involved in the post-war rebirth and growth of badminton. Among his following was a family from nearby Brockton. Joe and Nita Costello were already enthusiastic players and were eager for their young daughters Sondra and Carol to learn the game. Sondra held seniority, took the first lessons, and a year later entered the first National Junior championships. Carol entered the competitive world several years later and the Costello sisters became regular entrants in eastern and national tournaments.

a permanent home, after years of "commuting" between Brockton and the sunny shores of Florida. They were still active badminton players, and Joe often won senior doubles events. A year later, though, he suffered a heart attack and was told that his serious competitive days were over. During his year of recovery, he and Nita decided it was time they started passing on their badminton skills and knowledge by organizing and running a junior program in Duxbury. In 1956, Joe's doctors gave him the green light for teaching and coaching as long as he took it easy. Thus began the Duxbury junior badminton club and the careers of many junior players, including several national junior champions and a winner of the Ken Davidson Junior award.

Joe and Nita obtained one court in Duxbury's Town Hall and recruited 11 young players, who filled the court every day of the week. The first 11, who became well known in junior badminton, were Barbara and Cindy Bump, Nancy and Judy Sawyer, Barbara and Debbie Mulowney, Ann Nickerson, Gwin Coffin, Mary Brown, Jeff Doty, and Ted Hutton. They entered every available tournament that season of 1956-57, including the Eastern Open at Marblehead and the National Juniors in Wilmington, DE. In fact, one of them made *Life's* coverage of the latter tourney; who can forget the photo of one sad Gwin Coffin.

The following years were equally successful. In

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1958, 4 or 5 traveled to the National Juniors in Burbank, CA, including Ted Hutton who won the first 13 and Under singles title. The addition of Leslie Butler and her 7-year-old sister JoJo put added pressure on the one available court, but Joe and Nita spent hours at the town hall every day of the week to be sure every one had sufficient coaching and practice. The following year, they welcomed a new player, Gail Cutler and the growing and eager crew continued to enter many tournaments. En masse, they converged on Baltimore for the National Juniors in the spring of 1959. And, again in 1960, several traveled to Manhattan Beach, CA, for the same championships. There, young Gail Cutler made an impressive showing, going to the 13 and Under singles final, only to lose to another up'n comer, Tyna Barnaga.

By 1961, some of the old guard had gone away to school, dropping badminton, but Duxbury was still well represented in the National Juniors held in Boston in the spring. There, Barbara Bump was awarded the Ken Davidson Junior Memorial Trophy for sportsmanship, one of the highest honors in the game. It was as much an award to Nita and Joe, too, for their

College careers soon took the majority of the group away: the Sawyers to Colby Jr. College, Maine; Barbara Bump and Gwin Coffin to Hollins College in Roanoke, VA; Cindy Bump to Greenwich Jr. College; Barbara Mulowney to Garland Jr. College; Jeff Doty to the University of New Hampshire; and Ted Hutton to Trinity. Marriage has now claimed some of the girls: Gwin Coffin, Cindy Bump, Judy Sawyer, and Barb Mulowney, with Leslie Butler to join the ranks soon. Yet others show signs of taking up the game again, namely Nancy Sawyer and Barbara Bump.

Though the ranks had grown thin in the last few years, Nita and Joe kept the group alive. The 7-year-old JoJo Butler of 1958 is now the 16-year-old who last year won the Mass. State D, C, and B singles titles, won the Eastern Open 15 and Under doubles with Diane Luinsden of Needham, and who represented Duxbury in the 1966 National Juniors in Philadelphia. Finally, there is now a new group of juniors coming up in Duxbury. Joe and Nita have a lot to do with these, too, for they are all their grandchildren. Sondra and Al Fogarty have 3: Mike, 14; Robyn, 12; and Matt, 10. Carol and Jerry Wirt claim the others: Lisa, 10; Lori, 8; and Pamela, 2. It is, of course, with special pride that Joe and Nita Costello coach those old enough to play. And play well they do. Mike recently won all 3 events in the Mass. State 15 and Under tournament, while

Robyn partnered Mike to the mixed title and was runner-up in the other 2 events. Matt was runner-up in the State 13 and Under singles final. Lisa, Lori, and Pamela? Just give them a few years.

Through it all, Joe and Nita continued to play steadily with friends at the University club, where you'll still find them at least one night a week, chasing the ol' bird. They have done a remarkable job of producing fine players and champions, along with stimulating junior interest and competition throughout Massachusetts and the east. May the tradition of the Costello's of Duxbury carry on!

(Quantita Costello is still playing badminton week nights at the Boston University Club. In August, she will be hostess for badminton at the Olympics in Atlanta.)